

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently amended) ~~In a bellows, the combination comprising:~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies, the bellows comprising a side wall having a main pleat, a bellows bottom, said main pleat [[10]] being spaced from said bellows bottom so as to form a corner transition zone between said main pleat and said bellows bottom, and a pleated insert unit disposed in said corner transition zone between said main pleat and said bellows bottom, said main pleat having a vertex, said pleated insert unit having a plurality of insert pleats and an end region with a narrowed height, said plurality of insert pleats converging toward said end region, said end region being connected to said vertex of said main pleat.

8. (Currently amended) ~~In a bellows-~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies according to claim 7, wherein said main pleat has main pleat sides extending to said

bellows bottom, at least some of said plurality of insert pleats having outer sides connected to said main pleat sides.

9. (Currently amended) ~~In a bellows~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies according to claim 7, wherein said pleated insert unit has a bottom region opposite to said end region, said pleated insert unit at said bottom region having a height less than the height of said main pleat at said vertex.

10. (Currently amended) ~~In a bellows~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies according to claim 7, wherein said main pleat has main pleat sides extending along said corner transition zone from said vertex to a main pleat bottom region juxtaposed to said bellows bottom, said plurality of insert pleats having a height substantially equal to the height of said main pleat bottom region.

11. (Currently amended) ~~In a bellows~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies according to claim 7, wherein said main pleat comprises two converging main pleat sides joined at said vertex, said end region of said pleated insert unit having a

thickness approximately equal to the thickness of the main pleat sides at said vertex.

12. (Currently amended) ~~In a bellows~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies according to claim 7, wherein said bellows bottom include a plurality of pleats.

13. (Currently amended) ~~In a bellows~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies according to claim 12, wherein said plurality of pleats of said bellows bottom gradually decrease in height.

14. (Currently amended) ~~In a bellows~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies according to claim 7, wherein said pleated insert unit is integrally formed from a plastic material.

15. (Currently amended) ~~In a bellows~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies

according to claim 14, wherein said pleated insert unit is integrally formed from injected molded polyurethane.

16. (Currently amended) ~~In a bellows-~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies according to claim 7 further comprising a border frame provided on said main pleat.

17. (Currently amended) ~~In a bellows-~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies according to claim 7 further comprising a border frame provided on said pleated insert unit.

18. (Currently amended) ~~A pleated insert for use in a bellows in which the bellows has~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies, the bellows comprising a sidewall which includes a main pleat with a vertex and wherein the bellows further includes a bellows bottom, the main pleat and the bellows bottom being disposed relative to one another so as to form a corner transition zone between the main pleat and the bellows bottom, the pleated insert comprising:

an integral pleated insert unit disposed in said corner transition zone, said integral pleated insert unit having a plurality of insert pleats,

said plurality of insert pleats converging to an end region so as to enable said end region to be connected to the vertex of said main pleat.

19. (Currently amended) ~~A pleated insert~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies according to claim 18, wherein said pleated insert unit has a bottom region opposite to said end region, said pleated insert unit at said bottom region having a height less than the height of said end region.

20. (Currently amended) ~~A pleated insert~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies according to claim 18, wherein said pleated insert unit is integrally formed from a plastic material.

21. (Currently amended) ~~A pleated insert~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies

according to claim 20, wherein said pleated insert unit is integrally formed from injected molded polyurethane.

22. (Currently amended) ~~A pleated insert~~ A pleat or corrugation of a bellows of a connection between two hinge-linked vehicles or vehicle bodies according to claim 18, wherein said pleated insert unit comprises at least three pleats.